WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing a document along with document processing information thereby processing the document according to the document processing information by embedding the document processing information in the document.

2. A document comprises document processing information embedded in the document for processing of the document according to the document processing information provided according to the method claimed in claim 1.

3. The document as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the document processing information is encoded in the document.

4. The document as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the document is transmitted through paper delivery, a communication medium, or a telecommunication medium.

5. The document as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said document processing information includes operational information including at least one document handling procedure.

6. The document as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the document handling procedure is a document cutting step in conjunction with a document cutting position, a seal stamping step in conjunction with a seal stamping position, a document identification step in conjunction with a document ID, a document format

identification step in conjunction with a document format ID, an encryption step in conjunction with a encryption key, or a decryption step in conjunction with a decryption key.

5   7. The document as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said document processing information is in at least one of such forms as a two-dimensional bar code, text, an one-dimensional, two-dimensional, or three-dimensional bar code, a logo mark, a photograph, a graphic, a watermark, a holographic, a magnetic tape, or an IC chip.

10   8. The document as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the document is a bill for payment or a commercial paper.

      9. A software product comprises a module for providing a document along with document processing information thereby processing the document according

15 to the document processing information provided according to the method claimed in claim 1.

      10. A document processing system comprising:

input means for reading an embedding medium on a document;

20   document processing information extracting means for extracting document processing information embedded in the embedding medium; and

document processing means for executing the document processing information which includes at least one document handling procedure.

11. The document processing system as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the input means includes an image input means for reading a document image.

12. The document processing system as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the document processing means executes the document handling procedure by reading character strings stated on the document in accordance with the document processing information.

13. The document processing system as claimed in Claim 10, the document is a bill for payment or a commercial paper.

14. The document processing system, as claimed in Claim 10, further comprising:

an embedding medium identification means for identifying whether any embedding medium embedded with the document processing information is on the document; and

document processing information database retrieving means for retrieving a set of document processing information from a document processing information database of a document provider so as to assign the set of document processing information to the document, if the embedding medium identification means does not identify any embedding medium embedded with the document processing information on the document.

15. The document processing system as claimed in Claim 14, said database is stored in the document processing system or in a network to which said document processing system is linked.

16. The document processing system as claimed in Claim 14, further comprising a document processing information defining means for defining a new set of document processing information to be applied to the document if the retrieving means can not retrieve any set document processing information in the database of the document provider.

17. The document processing system as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the set of document processing information is selected from the database based upon a degree of similarity between a document format associated with the set of document processing information and a document image entered through an image input means.

18. The document processing system as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the system notifies the document provider the newly-defined set of document processing information so as to be included in the database or to be embedded in other document by the document provider.

19. The document processing system as claimed in Claim 10, comprising a document processing charge billing means for differentiating charges billed to the document issuer according to whether document processing information is stored on the document.

20. A document generating software product, comprising:

a communication module for enabling a prospective document user wishing to have a document made to notify a document generator of requirements regarding a

5   desired document layout and a desired document handling procedure;

a document layout making module for making a document layout according to the requirements from said prospective document user;

a document candidate presenting module for presenting to the prospective document user document candidates made by the document layout making module;

10   a document selecting module for letting the prospective document user select a document out of the document candidates presented by the document candidate presenting module; and

a document processing information embedding module for enabling said document generator to embed document processing information onto the selected

15   document candidate itself.